

representing different high speed communication standard capabilities to a responding communication device;

a negotiation data receiver, associated with the plurality of initiating communication devices, that receives at least one carrier including second negotiation information bits representing different high speed communication standard capabilities of said responding communication device, in response to said transmitted at least one carrier; and

a selector that selects an appropriate communication device from the plurality of initiating communication devices, in accordance with said responding communication device, to establish a communication channel, wherein said transmitted at least one carrier contains data related to a useable carrier allocation, said high speed communication standard capabilities identifying different xDSL standards.

Please amend claim 4, as follows:

4 (Three Times Amended). An apparatus for establishing a communication link, comprising:

a negotiation data transmitter, associated with a plurality of initiating communication devices, that transmits at least one carrier including first negotiation information bits representing different high speed communication standard capabilities to a responding communication device;

a negotiation data receiver, associated with the plurality of initiating communication devices, that receives at least one carrier including second negotiation information bits

representing different high speed communication standard capabilities of said responding communication device, in response to said transmitted at least one carrier; and

a selector that selects an appropriate communication device from the plurality of initiating communication devices, in accordance with said responding communication device, to establish a communication channel, wherein said negotiation data transmitter transmits said at least one carrier in accordance with neighboring receiving systems, said high speed communication standard capabilities identifying different xDSL standards.

Please amend claim 5, as follows:

5 (Amended). The apparatus of claim 4, wherein transmission characteristics of said transmitted at least one carrier is re-configurable during a transmission operation in order to minimize interference with the neighboring receiving systems.

Please amend claim 9, as follows:

9 (Three Times Amended). A method for establishing a communication link, comprising:

transmitting at least one carrier that includes first negotiation information bits representing different high speed communication standard capabilities to a responding communication device;

receiving at least one carrier that includes second negotiation information bits representing different high speed communication standard capabilities of the responding communication device, in response to the transmitted at least one carrier; and